

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 5, 2010 is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 3 of the Office Action. Because claims 10-12 have not been modified by this amendment, it is submitted that those claims are still in condition for allowance.

At the top of page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected previously-pending dependent claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as apparently failing to comply with the written description requirement of the first paragraph. In particular, the Examiner asserted that there is no drawing or description in the specification that allows for the features recited in claim 21. The Applicants disagree for the reasons discussed below.

Firstly, it is noted that the subject matter of dependent claim 21 has now been incorporated into independent claim 6. Furthermore, the subject matter of previously-pending claim 21 (now incorporated into independent claim 6) is clearly supported by at least Figure 4 and page 22, lines 6-9 of the original specification. In particular, these portions of the original disclosure clearly illustrate a connection supporting member 1130 having a base with a hole formed therein for allowing the lure 1140 to pass therethrough, in which the base has a plurality of slits extending radially outward from the hole. Thus, it is submitted that the original disclosure clearly supports, and provides ample antecedent basis for, the features recited in previously-pending dependent claim 21 and now incorporated into independent claim 6. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under § 112.

In item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6-9 and 20 as being unpatentable over the Imbert reference (USP 6,027,482). However, as noted above, independent claim 6 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of previously-pending dependent claim 21. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 6 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

A discussion of the features and advantages of the medical syringe as now recited in amended independent claim 6 will be provided below with reference to various portions of the present application. However, reference to any specific drawings or sections of the specification

is provided only for illustrated purposes, and is not intended to otherwise limit the scope of the claims to any particular embodiments.

Amended independent claim 6 is now directed a medical syringe that comprises a syringe unit 1120 including a lure 1140 for insertion into a connection target, and a syringe body 1121. In addition, a connection supporting member 1130 is provided for increasing a holding force of the lure 1140 when the syringe unit 1120 is connected to the connection target. As clearly illustrated in Figure 4, the connection supporting member 1130 has a base with a hole therein for allowing the lure 1140 to pass therethrough, and the base *has a plurality of slits extending radially outward from the hole* (see page 22, lines 6-9 of the original specification).

As a result of the connection supporting member having the slits as now recited in amended independent claim 6, a lure 1140 including a wider portion such as a stopper 1143 can easily pass through the hole in the connection supporting member because the radially-extending slits allow slight deformation in the base portion of the connection supporting member. Consequently, the hole through which the lure passes can remain relatively small so as to provide ample support and holding force for the lure, while also allowing the lure with a wider portion to easily pass through so as to simplify assembly of the medical syringe.

The Imbert reference teaches a syringe tip cap including a tip (i.e., lure) 22 and a retaining luer collar (i.e., connection supporting member) 44. As indicated in Figures 1 and 3 of the Imbert reference, the luer collar 44 has a hole for allowing the tip 22 to pass therethrough. However, the base of the luer collar (connection supporting member) 44 in which the hole is located does not have *a plurality of slits extending radially outward from the hole*, as now required by amended independent claim 6. In fact, it is noteworthy that the tip 22 of the Imbert reference is relatively narrow and has no larger diameter parts (such as a stopper) that would require passage through the hole and the luer collar 44. Therefore, there would be no reason for providing slits in the base portion of the luer collar 44 so as to allow the tip 22 to more easily pass therethrough. Consequently, it is submitted that the Imbert reference does not even *suggest* a connection supporting member that has a plurality of slits extending radially outward from a hole in a base, as required by amended independent claim 6.

The remaining prior art of record also does not teach or even suggest a connection supporting member having a plurality of slits as now recited in amended independent claim 6. Therefore, the prior art references of record, including the Imbert reference, provide no apparent

reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to produce a medical syringe comprising a connection supporting member as recited in amended independent claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 6 and the claims that dependent therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Susumu HONGO et al.

/W. Douglas Hahm/
2010.06.04 13:12:36 -04'00'

By

W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicants

WDH/rgf
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 4, 2010